

The Children's Center

www.thechildrenscenter.cc

Spring 2010

Our mission is to nurture and educate children and their families through a professional staff dedicated to enhancing each child's potential with creative, quality programs.



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300 Executive Court
Suffolk, VA 23434
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We're growing!

With winter behind us, we are beginning to see signs of new birth and Spring. This Winter makes the coming days even more welcome!

The Children's Center is in a growth mode as well. We received a grant to expand our Early Head Start program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. With a grant of nearly \$1.1 million, we will increase our Early Head Start program by 108 children and add 38 staff members.

To enroll in Early Head Start, families must meet the Federal Poverty Guidelines (presently \$22,050 for a family of 4). Pregnant women and children up to age three are eligible.

Beginning in April, the Center will add 12 pregnant women and/or young children to the home visiting portion of the program. By April, an additional 40 children will receive a combination of home visits and early care and education at the Texie Camp Marks Center in Franklin.

Finally, by November, the final 56 children will begin receiving a combination of home visits and early care and education at the Suffolk Children's Center.

We are particularly grateful to our community partners who have made this effort possible. The Center has worked closely with Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater to identify the areas of need and support. In addition, Bank of America, Hampton Roads Foundation, and Beazley Foundation have provided the match needed to develop this program. Early Head Start requires the community to provide \$1 for every \$4 of Federal funds received.

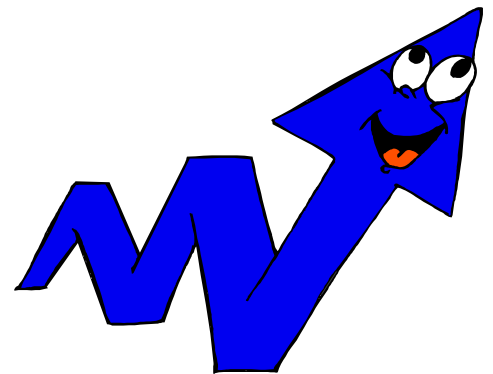
Joining this project will be another very exciting effort. The Advancing Behavioral Competency (ABC) Project will provide early care and education providers with support and training to provide infants and toddlers with the social and emotional supports they need. The project partners include Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater, Paul D. Camp

Community College, The Planning Council, and T/TAC (Training and Technical Assistance Center). This collaboration has developed from the Results Leadership Project sponsored by Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater this year.

Also In this newsletter, you can visit with Caleb Koen, who is being helped through the Center's Early Intervention program, and find out about the Center's latest grants.

We hope that this spring will be a growth period for you, too!

— Barbara Mease
Executive Director



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Caleb doing better after sudden illness

A year ago, Caleb Koen's life changed drastically. In January 2009, Caleb was running, talking, and eating like a typically developing child. By February, something was drastically wrong.

"He lost all of his skills very quickly," said Caleb's mom, Meghan. "Gradually, all of it went away."

Caleb, a resident of Carrollton, was diagnosed with Leukodystrophy, a rare genetic disorder that affects the central nervous system by disrupting the growth or maintenance of the myelin sheath that insulates nerve cells. This disorder is progressive, meaning that it tends to get worse throughout the life of the child.

Through the Early Intervention program, the Children's Center has stepped in to help by providing an evaluation by Tracey Pounce-Jaggessar, speech and feeding therapy with Margaret Bachman, and service coordination with Darlene

Dillard. All of the services are home-based.

"Caleb cannot have center-based services because of his susceptibility to germs," his mom said. "The fact that they can do home-based is a huge relief."

The Children's Center also made sure that the Koen's had Christmas presents under the tree.

"The kids were able to have Christmas this year. If it wasn't for the Children's Center, they wouldn't have been able to," Meghan said.

Meghan is happy with the services her son has received from the Children's Center.

"He has made major progress with the therapies. He can actually stand up for a brief moment with leg braces on," she said. "He hasn't been able to stand up since April (2009).



The Koen's, Faith, Caleb, and mom Meghan, posed for this picture at Christmas this past year. Caleb has been diagnosed with Leukodystrophy and has been receiving services from the Children's Center.

You can contribute to the Children's Center endowment

You can contribute to the Children's Center's Endowment in any amount at any time. There are currently two ways to donate:

1. By check, which can be mailed to: 700 Campbell Avenue, Franklin, VA 23851. Please include "endowment donation" as an identifier on the check.

2. By debit card or credit card at the Texie Camp Marks Children's Center, 700 Campbell Avenue in Franklin, or the Suffolk Children's Center, 300 Executive Court, Suffolk.

The Children's Center is working on making online donations a possibility in the future. Check back at the

Children's Center website at www.thechildrenscenter.cc.



News Items

Camp Foundations help fund EHS expansion

The Children's Center has received a grant from the Camp Foundations, a loyal funder of the Center for many years, to assist with Early Head Start expansion. The \$13,450 grant will be used for match money for a renovation project at the Texie Camp Marks Children's Center. The renovation will convert space into more classrooms for smaller groups, which is required by EHS.

Suffolk Foundation supports Children's Center

The Children's Center has received an \$1,800 grant from the Suffolk Foundation to replace car seats in vehicles at the Suffolk Children's Center and classrooms at the Pruden Center. It is the second year in a row that the Suffolk Foundation has supported the Children's Center.

Bennett's Creek Sertoma Club helps Children's Center screen children for hearing loss

The Children's Center received a \$3,671 grant from the Bennett's Creek Sertoma Club to purchase an audiometer to screen young children for hearing loss. This donation is in addition to the \$3,000 the Bennett's Creek Sertoma Club already gave the Center in 2009.

Children's Center to begin ABC Project with a grant from VA Dept. of Social Services

The Children's Center has received a \$337,903 grant from the Virginia Department of Social Services Office of Early Childhood Development to begin the Advancing Behavioral Competence (ABC) Project.

The two-year project will address challenging behaviors and support social and emotional development for infants and tod-

dlers in the Western Tidewater area.

This project involves a partnership with Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater, the Planning Council, Paul D. Camp Community College, Western Tidewater Health District, Western Tidewater Infant and Toddler Connection, Suffolk Early Childhood Commission, and local departments of Social Services

The Children's Center is creating a Speaker's Bureau

The staff at the Children's Center can provide your civic group or organization with a guest speaker. Groups can choose to hear about the Children's Center's programs, or other interactive topics and activities like disability awareness, group process and communication, early childhood learning, and the welfare of children living in our communities. Call Jeff Zeigler at 562-6806 for details.

Donor Spotlight



A donation from Camp Foundations has made it possible for the Children's Center to renovate the canopy in front of the Texie Camp Marks building in Franklin. The canopy had structural damage because of rainwater sitting on top of the flat roof.

The Children's Center is a private, non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information about the Children's Center's programs, please contact the Center in Franklin, Virginia at 757-562-6806 or visit www.thechildrenscenter.cc.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please e-mail us at jzeigler@thechildrenscenter.cc or call 757-562-6806.

In honor and memory

Many of our friends offer the Children's Center gifts made in honor or in memory of someone special. Those being honored or remembered are printed in bold italicized print followed by the donors' names. These tributes were given between August 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009.

In Memory

Ida Arminger

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In Memory

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Maggie L. Vaughan

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Maggie L. Vaughan

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Maggie Vaughan

Rebecca Butler

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thank you

We embrace the community as our partner in serving children. Donations help make our programs stronger. The Children's Center extends many thanks to the good friends who have made donations between August 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009.

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